

THE BATTLE CRY



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GUERILLAS

CAPTAIN JOHN J. DICKISON

Captain John J. Dickison, 2nd Florida Cavalry, CSA, was Florida's equivalent during the Civil War to Virginia's celebrated partisan John Mosby, or to Kentucky's John Hunt Morgan. It was Dickison and his small band of horsemen who almost single-handedly kept Florida's interior from falling under Union control. Using the state's natural terrain for cover and employing modern guerilla tactics, he inspired such fear and respect in his northern enemies that Federal forces rarely ventured west of the St. Johns River in central and north Florida. This land became known as "Dixie-land", a play on his last name, and he became known to all as the "Swamp Fox". Using numerous published and unpublished primary sources, Mr. Koblas has written the first-ever thorough military biography of this legendary and overlooked Confederate.

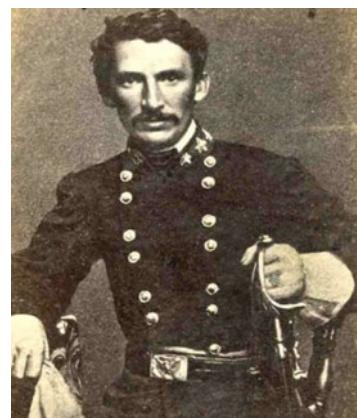
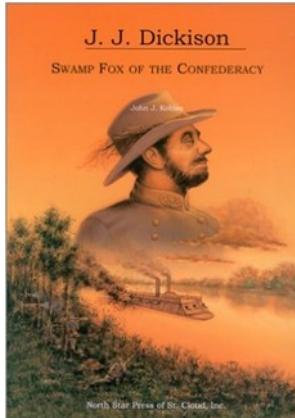
Dickison fought during the Civil War in Florida, which was basically told to fend for itself. Using guerilla combat and skirmishing, his band of soldiers became the only people to blow up a gunship from land during the Civil War.

May 17, 2016

TBA

(Gordon will announce
the topic at the April
Meeting)

Meetings 3rd Tues. of
the month (7 pm)
GRACE CHURCH
ADULT ANNEX, 8000
Bee Ridge Rd, Sarasota, FL 34236. On
Occasion time and
location of the meeting
will be changed.



General M. Jeff Thompson

GENERAL M. JEFF THOMPSON

Meriwether Jeff Thompson (January 22, 1826 – September 5, 1876) was a brigadier general in the Missouri State Guard during the American Civil War. He served the Confederate Army as a cavalry commander, and had the unusual distinction of having a ship in the Confederate Navy named for him.

TRIVIA QUESTIONS

- What was the purpose of a "double-barrel" cannon?
- According to the Constitution of the Confederacy, how long was a Presidential term of office?
- Driving a wedge into cannon's firing vent was referred to as what?
- What West Pointer, class of 1838, took over Stonewall Jackson's division after Jackson's death at Chancellorsville?
- What frustrated head of the Confederate Treasury resigned under pressure because he could not vitalize a faltering economy?
- What Presbyterian clergy man wrote one of the first biographies of Stonewall Jackson, whom he served under?



Thompson was a colonel in the Missouri state militia at the outbreak of the Civil War. In late July 1861, he was appointed brigadier general of the First Division, Missouri State Guard. He commanded the First Military District of Missouri, which covered the swampy southeastern quarter of the state from St. Louis to the Mississippi River. Thompson's battalion soon became known as the "Swamp Rats" for their exploits. He gained renown as the "Swamp Fox of the Confederacy." Although Thompson frequently petitioned for the Confederate rank of brigadier general it was never granted. His brigadier rank came from his Missouri State Guard service.^[4]

When Union General John C. Fremont issued an emancipation proclamation purporting to free the slaves in Missouri, Thompson declared a counter-proclamation and his force of 3,000 soldiers began raiding Union positions near the border in October. On October 15, 1861, Thompson led a cavalry attack on the Iron Mountain Railroad bridge over the Big River near Blackwell in Jefferson County. After successfully burning the bridge, Thompson retreated to join his infantry in Fredericktown. Soon afterwards, he was defeated at the Battle of Fredericktown and withdrew, leaving southeastern Missouri in Union control.

After briefly commanding rams in the Confederate riverine fleet in 1862, Thompson was reassigned to the Trans-Mississippi region. There, he engaged in a number of battles before returning to Arkansas in 1863 to accompany Gen. John S. Marmaduke on his raid into Missouri. Thompson was captured in August in Arkansas, and spent time in St. Louis' Gratiot Street prison, as well as at the Fort Delaware and Johnson's Island prisoner-of-war camps, ("Poor old Jeff, how my heart went out to him; he a prisoner and his devoted wife in a madhouse". Source: My Life and My Lectures by Major Lamar Fontaine, a prisoner with M. Jeff Thompson in Fort Delaware, p. 238)

Eventually he was exchanged in 1864 for a Union general. Later that year, Thompson participated in Major General Sterling Price's Missouri expedition, taking command of "Jo" Shelby's famed "Iron Brigade" when Shelby became division commander.-----*Edited from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.*



Double Barrel Cannon

Civil War Battlefield Artists

During the Civil War the American public read a constant stream of dispatches written by correspondents and telegraphed to newspapers. Yet the technology of the day couldn't print photographs in newspapers or magazines, so the visual reporting of the war was done by highly skilled sketch artists who traveled with the armies.

The artists were commonly known as "Specials," as their packages of sketches were sent to magazines by special delivery mail. In the field they would draw vivid scenes of battlefield action as well as depictions of more ordinary life in military camps.

The drawings, when they arrived at magazine offices, would be copied by other highly skilled artists onto blocks of wood. And engravers would meticulously produce plates which would then be used to print the highly detailed illustrations.

It would take up to a month for an illustration to go from being drawn on the battlefield to appearing on the newsstand.

Drawings Were More Popular Than Photographs

Drawings by battlefield artists appeared most prominently in two very popular magazines published in New York City, Harper's Weekly and Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper.

An illustrated publication in the South, the Southern Illustrated News, was not as successful.

While Civil War scenes were photographed, only a tiny portion of the public ever saw the photographs during the war. People had to visit a photographic studio to view the images. In one famous example, photographs taken by Alexander Gardner of dead soldiers at Antietam created a sensation when shown at the New York City gallery of Matthew Brady in late 1862.

When the public did see such images, it was usually in the form of engravings based on the photographs. And while the public could buy prints of photographs from galleries, they tended to be rare and relatively expensive items.

Battlefield Artists Became Prominent

The curiosity of the public for images of the war meant talented artists were in demand. And some artists became known for their work covering the armies. Among them were:

Edwin Forbes: After studying art, Forbes began traveling with the Union's Army of the Potomac in 1861. His drawings appeared in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper throughout the war. During his extensive time with the army, Forbes was present at major battles, including Antietam and Gettysburg.

Alfred Waud: Born in Britain, Waud came to America in 1850 and by the late 1850s was working steadily as an illustrator. In 1861 he was present at the Battle of Bull Run, and by the end of the year he was working steadily for Harper's Weekly. He was present and draw scenes at Antietam. He was also present at the Battle of Gettysburg, and drew an eyewitness scene of Pickett's Charge.

Winslow Homer: Though he would later become known for his paintings, including his class seascapes, Homer worked in his youth as an artist for Harper's Weekly. He traveled to the front in Virginia on several occasions and contributed drawings of soldier life. During the war he was beginning to create more serious art, which included paintings of soldiers in uniform.

Thomas Nast: Born in Germany, Nast came to America and worked during the Civil War for Harper's Weekly. He was intensely loyal to Abraham Lincoln and the policies of the Republican Party, and he specialized in creating illustrations that were essentially patriotic political messages. In the decades following the Civil War he became known for his editorial cartoons which attacked, and helped to bring down, Boss Tweed.

Continued on next page



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Vice President: Matt Donovan
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Newsletter Editor: M. Bruce Maxian

DUES FOR THE 2015-2016 CAMPAIGN ARE PAYABLE TO PAT MCINERNEY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DUES KEEP THE PROGRAMS AND NEWSLETTERS AVAILABLE TO YOU.

Our Annual Campaign runs from Sept. through May, dues are \$30 .

Anyone interested in receiving "The Battle Cry" by e-mail please see Bruce Maxian at one of our meetings or e-mail me at:

Sarasota.cwrt@gmail.com

Meetings 3rd Tues. of the month (7 pm)
GRACE CHURCH
ADULT ANNEX, 8000 Bee Ridge Rd, Sarasota, FL 34236. On Occasion time and location of the meeting will be changed.

PLEASE WEAR YOUR T-SHIRTS TO THE MEETING. IN THE MEANTIME WEAR THEM WHEREVER YOU ROAM.

OUR MONTHLY RAFFLE ALWAYS NEEDS YOUR DONATED BOOKS & MAGAZINES.

The Battlefield Artists Faced Hardships

The job of a traveling artist may have seemed glamorous, but the reality was that following the armies was very difficult. Artists typically carried a bag of drawing supplies as well as changes of clothes and utilitarian camping gear.

The artists were not expected to be on the front lines, but being anywhere on a Civil War battlefield was risky. And at times the artists would find themselves very close to the action.

Life among the soldiers had its own problems. There could be long stretches of boredom during lulls in the war, and at times the artists seemed to amuse themselves by drawing scenes of ordinary life in camp.

The Legacy of Civil War Battlefield Artists

Though the general public saw the Civil War through the eyes of artists during the conflict, in the decades following the war that changed. As the halftone printing process was developed it became possible to print photographs in newspapers, magazines, and books, and the work of battlefield artists was overshadowed and largely forgotten.

That has changed somewhat in recent decades as the important role played by the artists has gained new appreciation. And the drawings of the artists, as they are often the only depiction of significant events, have reached new audiences interested in the Civil War.



Alfred Waud

Death of Reynolds/Gettysburg



Edwin Forbes



Antietam



Thomas Nast



Sherman's Bummers to Georgia

Check our monthly newsletter, *Battle Cry* at:

<http://www.sarasotacwrt.yolasite.com>